

Each one of these efforts seeks to put an end to the discrimination and to the violence against individuals as a result of their sexual orientation or their gender identity, and I believe each one of them is so strong and deserves to continue to be an American value because discrimination of any kind runs counter to who we are as Americans.

As a refugee from the brutal communist, the dictatorship in Cuba, I have always viewed my adopted homeland, the United States, as a symbol of freedom, of equality, of opportunity; and these are fundamental values that must be applied to everyone in our country, regardless of who they are or whom they love.

The United States has a unique and important role in the world. Many people look to us for leadership. They aspire to be like us. They emulate our values. So, as a country, we have the opportunity and the awesome responsibility to promote the best of our American values.

One way to do this is to take a stand against the violence, against the harassment, against the discrimination that LGBT community members face around the world. Mr. Speaker, I will give some examples.

Our American values dictate that we should respect and embolden individual freedoms for all. That is our guiding principle. But in 70 countries throughout the world, being gay or transgender is cause enough to be locked away, imprisoned. In seven of these countries, the penalty is death.

Our State Department Human Rights Report, a report that Congress has requested or mandated be filled out every year, is reported to us. It is filled with examples of abuses, of discrimination, of violence carried out against LGBT individuals everywhere.

In Russia, basic political freedoms of speech, of assembly, and of expression are denied to those who are LGBT. In the Russian republic of Chechnya, Chechen government officials are directly responsible for rounding up and executing LGBT individuals. We in Congress condemn these actions by Chechen authorities through a resolution that I authored and we passed.

In Egypt, LGBT individuals have been subjected to forced exams in order to prove if someone is gay, whatever that means; and, later, they are incarcerated.

In Indonesia and Nigeria, gay men have been stoned.

In Jamaica, lesbians have been subjected to rape, purportedly to correct their sexual orientation.

In Brazil and in many Central American countries, transgender individuals have been subjected to abuse and murder.

This is unimaginable in our country, but those are but a few examples of the range of injustices and disrespect that LGBT individuals face around the world.

Those who remain in their countries face these humiliations. They are even

denied employment, employment that they need in order to feed their families. And those who seek to flee their countries to escape a fate that you and I cannot even imagine are often denied the expedited refugee protection that they need.

So, Mr. Speaker, as my time serving in this body comes to a close, my fight for what is right will not end. I say to my colleagues: We may be from different parties, we may have different points of view and different philosophies, and we might serve on different committees, but I ask us all to commit, beginning today, to working across the aisle with a view to becoming more consistent, more fair, more respectful, and more principled on this issue. We as a country need to take action to set the right example.

There are many issues upon which we as a body may never agree, but LGBT equality should not be one of them.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor William Hild, Jr., FirstSarasota, the Downtown Baptist Church, Sarasota, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God, we beseech You this morning to grant unto this House abundant wisdom, such as we read of in the epistle of James, a wisdom that "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity." May such wisdom be the foundation upon which debate and decision is made.

We pray for the health, wholeness, and peace to be upon each and every esteemed Member, their spouses, their families, and the dedicated staffs who undergird them. May the great challenges that confront our land, debated in this Chamber, become opportunities for even greater blessing as, together, we seek Your will for this, our beloved Nation.

May we be reminded today that Your Word teaches us: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord." We thank You for Your incredible goodness, remembering all Your many blessings, both individually and as a Nation.

We earnestly pray for a deeper desire to make You the foundation and center of our life as we offer this humble pray-

er in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LAWRENCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Certificate of Election received from the Honorable Ruth Johnson, the Michigan Secretary of State, indicating that, at the Special Election held on November 6, 2018, the Honorable Brenda Jones was duly elected Representative in Congress for the 13th Congressional District, State of Michigan.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I, Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State and Custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, certify that the following persons were duly elected in Michigan at the November 6, 2018 General Election to the Office of U.S. Representative in Congress for a term commencing immediately and ending on January 3, 2019, as shown by the official returns certified for the election and placed on file in this office.

District 13, Brenda Jones.

In witness whereof, I have hereto attached my signature and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, at Lansing, on November 26, 2018.

RUTH JOHNSON,
Secretary of State.

DIRECTING THE SPEAKER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT FROM THE 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1161) and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1161

Resolved, That the Speaker is hereby authorized and directed to administer the oath of office to Ms. Brenda Jones, a representative-elect from the 13th Congressional District of Michigan.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE BRENDA JONES, OF MICHIGAN, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Michigan delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Ms. JONES of Michigan appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 115th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE BRENDA JONES OF MICHIGAN TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly present BRENDA JONES as a new Member of Congress for Michigan's 13th Congressional District for the remainder of this Congress.

BRENDA JONES was elected in a special election earlier this month. She very much wanted to essentially be faithful to the votes of her constituents, so all of us are here proudly to be with her.

Her career in public service started in 2005 when she was elected to the De-

troit City Council. My brother was once president of that city council.

She has subsequently been reelected three times and rose to become president of the council in 2014 and again in 2018.

BRENDA is a former small-business owner, a past president of the Communication Workers of America Local 4004, and a proud alumnus of Wayne State University.

We all welcome you here to Congress, especially fellow colleagues from the Michigan delegation.

But if I may add, the former Speaker is here, NANCY PELOSI. It is so characteristic of her to join all of us.

In addition to the Michigan delegation, I see others who are here who either know BRENDA JONES or will come to know her in a short period while she is here in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I appreciate the chance to address the House, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. JONES). I proudly leave this place to the Member, now, of the House of Representatives, BRENDA JONES.

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let me start out by saying: To God be the glory. I want to first thank God for giving me this great opportunity. I want to thank my family; Pastor John Pitts; a special thank you to my colleagues BRENDA LAWRENCE, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chairman CEDRIC RICHMOND; all of the Congressional Black Caucus; and all of the Michigan delegation. To the leader and to all of my supporters, volunteers, my church family, the 13th Congressional District, and the State of Michigan, I say thank you.

This truly is a humble feeling to stand here and be sworn in amongst the men and women who do the work every day for the United States of America.

The voices of constituents of the 13th Congressional District have been heard, and I am now seated as their Representative of the United States of America. It is time to get to work. I am ready to roll up my sleeves during this lame-duck session, do what is expected of me, and join my colleagues in getting the job done for the 13th Congressional District and for the United States of America.

God bless the 13th Congressional District. God bless the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Michigan, the whole number of the House is 433.

WELCOMING PASTOR WILLIAM HILD, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to welcome to the United States Capitol my pastor, William Hild, who led us in the opening prayer today.

Pastor Hild is not only a tremendous community leader in my hometown of Sarasota, Florida, but he has been a great friend to Sandy and me, and a resource to me and my family, for nearly 18 years.

Since 1997, Pastor Hild has served as the pastor of FirstSarasota, the Downtown Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the church has grown. It is very dynamic. It makes a big difference in my community. Also under his leadership, we have seen the incredible outreach that he has done in terms of strengthening and encouraging people on our beautiful Gulf Coast.

My wife Sandy and I want to personally thank Pastor Hild for what he has done for us in our life and what he continues to do in our community to make it a better community. It is a privilege to have Pastor Hild and his family here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING IRA A. LEESFIELD

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to rise today to recognize Ira Leesfield and congratulate him on receiving the 2018 Lawyers for Children America's Janet Reno Outstanding Community Partner Award.

As a University of Florida Law School graduate, Ira proved himself to be an intelligent and driven individual from the very beginning of his legal career. Upon graduation, Ira entered the honors program at the U.S. Department of Justice and served as a trial attorney in the U.S. Army and in the Judge Advocate General's Corps before opening his own practice in 1976.

Since then, Ira has become well known for his work throughout our State and the U.S., where he has consistently made it his mission to be a voice for the less fortunate and those in need.

In the early 1990s, Ira established the Leesfield Family Foundation, which supports both local and national nonprofits, and emphasizes protecting the elderly and underprivileged women and children in our south Florida community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ira on this well-deserved recognition. I thank him for